MONTEREY NEWS

July 2001
VOLUME XXXI · Number 7

THE TOWN

Town Hall Ribbon Cutting

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Town Hall on July 14 at noon marking the completion of the handicap barrier removal project. If anyone has a suggestion about who should have the honor of cutting the ribbon, please submit your suggestion to the Select Board right away.

New Assistant Assessor

Timothy Taylor of Lee has been appointed by the Select Board as the new Town Assistant Assessor. Mr. Taylor is the Assistant Assessor for the Towns of Tyringham and South Hampton. Harry Gustafson will stay on until the end of August.

Bidwell Park Rd Beautification

Jan Emmons is heading a beautification project for the riverbank off Bidwell Park Road. Mrs. Emmons is looking for volunteers to assist her with this project. She can be reached at 528-5985.

Public Hearing on Possible Town Purchase of Land

On June 18 at noon, the Board conducted a Public Hearing to consider whether the Town should exercise its option to purchase approximately 609 acres of land on the Tyringham Road on the Tyringham-Otis line (Map 12, Parcel 4). It has been proposed that this land be removed from the Chapter 61 forestry program, which would give the Town the first option. Present for the hearing were Assistant Assessor Harry Gustafson; Mary Brock and Storrs Olds, both representing the Monterey Preservation Land Trust; real estate brokers Mary White and Maureen Kirkby; Dan Andrus, contract purchaser; and Dana Marcus, attorney for the Estate of Mark Shelton, the property owner. Mary White estimated the land's value at approximately $60,000. The property contains some wetlands and is traversed by a gas pipeline with a several-hundred-foot easement on both sides. Gustafson agreed with White's approximation of the property's value but emphasized that a new survey should be done. Selectman Chapman read a letter from the Conservation Commission advising against the land's purchase. The Board indicated that the decision will be taken under advisement pending additional input from the Planning Board and other agencies. The Board has a 120-day period in which to make a decision.

Glynis Oliver

Retiring Monterey Postmaster Walter Parks acknowledges good wishes of townspeople who gathered to salute him on his final day. See related article, p. 3.

Tree Warden's Concerns

Tree Warden Roger Tryon met with the Select Board regarding his current practice, which may be in violation of state law, of hiring himself on a per-hour basis to complete various tree work for the Town. Mr. Tryon stated that he would like to cease said practice and instead receive a salary for the work, details to be worked out with the Salary Committee and the newly hired Director of Operations for Highways, Buildings and Town Property. The Board agreed with the proposed changes and asked that Mr. Tryon meet with the Highway Department to discuss the matter.

Mr. Tryon also questioned the lack of competition in the single bidding process

for equipment and operators required by the Highway Department. Mr. Tryon requested that the equipment listed on the Notice of Bid for Equipment be more varied in specifications, pointing out that all such equipment currently listed corresponded exactly to that owned by a single contractor in town. Mr. Tryon would like to see more opportunity for other contractors in town, who may have different equipment to bid on Town jobs. Tryon suggested that specific jobs, such as the playground work, be bid separately. The Board agreed that certain projects would be isolated from the single bidding process.

Second Homeowners Meeting

The meeting has been rescheduled to August 4, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey Firehouse.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt

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- Stone for Walls, Patios & Steps

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

All Town Boards Meeting

An "All Boards" quarterly meeting was held on June 26, 2001, at 7 p.m. in the Town Offices. The three issues discussed were the Scenic Mountain Act, the Monterey Historic District, and how to increase voter participation at the annual town meeting.

Scenic Mountain Act

Chris Blair, Chair of the Conservation Commission, spoke on the Scenic Mountain Act. The act, (MGL Chapter 131:Section 39A) enacted in 1974, has several purposes including the prevention of pollution and erosion and the preservation of natural scenic qualities. The act enables Berkshire cities and towns to delineate their own "scenic mountain" regions and then exercise control over new development for the sake of protecting watershed resources and preserving scenic qualities. Once a community adopts the act, the act becomes part of the town bylaws or city ordinance. After the act becomes part of the town bylaws, all new development in the designated mountain regions must be reviewed by the Conservation Commission at a public hearing, after which the Conservation Commission, can place conditions on certain activities within the areas designed as "scenic mountain" regions. The purpose of the act is to regulate removal, filling, excavation, or other alteration within the delineated area that is likely to have a significant adverse impact on watershed resources or scenic qualities. Within the act, base watershed elevations are specified, above which the regulations apply. The base watershed elevation for Monterey's two watersheds, the Farmington River and the Housatonic River, is 1,500 feet. The Town may choose to use this base elevation as a starting point to delineate Scenic Mountain Areas or may choose to go higher or lower. Generally, the act does *not* apply to:

- Cutting trees (as long as owners comply with the provision of the Forest Cutting Practice Act , MGL Ch. 132);
- Construction or maintenance of public electrical or communications infrastructure;
- Maintenance or repair of any lawfully constructed structure so long as the activity will not result in substantial clearing of contiguous vegetation.

Future articles will appear in the *Monterey News* addressing this issue. It is the hope of the Conservation Commission that an article on whether to adopt the Scenic Mountain Act in the Town will be included on the 2002 Town Meeting warrant.

Local Historic District

Barbara Tryon spoke on the Historical Commission's efforts to have part of Monterey designated as a historic district. Last July an informational meeting was held in the Knox Museum Room with a representative from the Massachusetts Historic Commission who explained the benefit of the designation and answered questions. The suggested district would include many of the properties from 404 to 471 Main Road, two properties at the beginning of New Marlborough Road,

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and three properties at the beginning of Tyringham Road. The Historical Commission is in the process of completing the application that will be submitted to the state Historical Preservation Office. If the application is accepted, the historic district is placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Properties within National Register District are automatically included in the State Register of Historic Places. Property owner of properties listed in the National Register are in no way limited in the use of the property unless public funding is used. If a property is listed in the National Register the owner may do anything with it he/she wishes. The benefits of listing in the State Register are:

• Provides limited protection from adverse effects by state funded, licensed or assisted projects;

• When available, provides owners of municipal or private nonprofit properties opportunities to apply for 50 percent matching state grants through the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund.

More information is available from the Historical Commission.

Town Meeting Attendance

The last issue discussed was how to increase turnout at the annual town meeting. Many ideas were tossed around including serving refreshments, changing the day, and giving discount on dump permits. If anyone has any ideas, please submit them to this paper.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt

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Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245

Glynis Oliver

Alan Dean and Karl Finger lead the crowd in a musical salute to Walter.

Walter's Farewell

On Friday afternoon, June 1, a group of about 75 townspeople unofficially assembled in front of the Post Office to wish Walter Parks well as he left work on the final day of his 42-year career at the Monterey Post Office, 30 of them as the Postmaster.

At approximately 4:45 p.m. Walter came out and lowered the flag for his last time, apparently not noticing the gathering throng. (The throng was trying to blend in and look as if they had official business or were just part of the normal pedestrian traffic in downtown Monterey.) Finally Walter reappeared carrying his personal belongings, and the crowd gathered round. Led by Karl Finger on the guitar and Alan Dean on the trumpet we all sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You," including a few special verses Karl came up with for the occasion, and finishing up with "Auld Land Syne." It was a moving tribute and Walter was left speechless. He was then greeted and hugged by all the people he has served over the years and he slowly made his way to his car. For the final send off, a police cruiser with lights flashing and sirens blaring gave him a grand escort up the hill to his home.

Anne Marie Makuc expressed the feelings of everyone present when she said, "We couldn't let him come out and just leave."

We wish you well Walter and thank you for your unfailing good humor and cheerfulness.

— Glynis Oliver

Christopher Blair

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"I Love Monterey Day"

Saturday, July 14

Another day filled with fun and informative activities is coming up July 14, "I Love Monterey Day." We celebrate our town with performances by artists, sporting events for all ages, and an educational farm tour. Join us at the Firehouse pavilion for tasty farm-raised food off the grill and more entertainment, (sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council), into the evening. For more information call the Town Offices, 528-1443, or Amy Goldfarb, Gould Farm 528-1804, ext. 25.

Schedule

9 a.m.: Kids Fun Run, Greene Park (sponsored by Park Commission)

9:30 a.m.: 20th Annual Knox Trail Run, starts and ends in center of town (sponsored by the Park Commission)

9–noon: Knox Museum Room open (sponsored by Historical Society)

10–11 a.m.: Storyteller Alicia Quintano tells "How the Stars Came to Be," Library (Library, Cultural Council)

10 a.m.–1 p.m.: Annual Book Sale, Library lawn (sponsored by Library)

12 noon: Ribbon Cutting Dedication of Town Office Renovation

10 a.m.–3 p.m.: Basketball Tournament, Greene Park, organized by Jay Amidon (sponsored by Park Comm.)

1–3 p.m.: Sand Castle Contest, town beach (sponsored by Park Comm.)

12–4 p.m.: From Cow to Curd, a Farm Cheese-Making Tour, Gould Farm Dairy Barn (sponsored by Gould Farm)

4:30 p.m.: Juggling Workshop with professional juggler Henry Lappen, Firehouse Pavilion (sponsored by Cultural Council)

5 p.m.: Juggling performance by Henry the Juggler, Firehouse Pavilion (sponsored by Cultural Council)

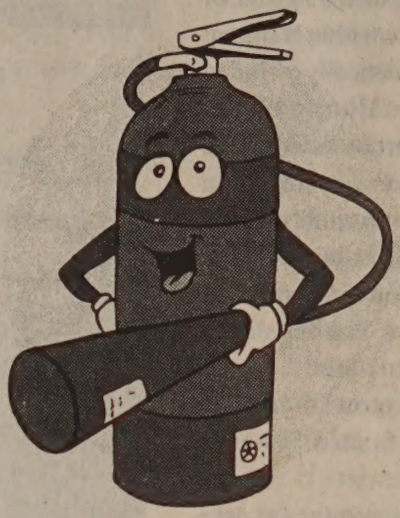
5:30–7 p.m.: Farm-raised foods sold at Firehouse Pavilion by Gould Farm—picnics welcome

7–8 p.m.: Bob Thomas Storyteller, Firehouse Pavilion (Cultural Council)

Fire Department Activities

Annual Firemen's Steak Roast Set for July 28

The Fire Department responded to three calls in May.
Brush and grass fire: 1
E.M.S. calls: 2



A more recent emergency medical service call is worth reporting in this column. The Monterey Fire Department was called for assistance to a resident who had a pacemaker for his heart condition, and the pacemaker had a built in defibrillator to shock the heart, should it for any reason stop beating. For some reason this safety mechanism was malfunctioning, unnecessarily shocking the victim. The Fire Department radio contacted Fairview Hospital. The immediate reply was good news. The new cardiology unit and doctor there had the equipment and expertise to correct the condition. The patient was treated there, and sent home, feeling grateful and much better at last report.

For the month of July, the most important Fire Department event is the 23rd Annual Steak Roast, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday evening, July 28. The popular menu is your choice of grilled steak or swordfish dinners, including corn on the cob, fresh garden salad, baked Idaho potato, with cake and ice cream. (Also available — soda, beer, wine, hot dogs, and hamburgers.) There will be entertainment, with live music plus a jester to keep things lively. Tickets are $18.00 per person and will be offered door to door by Monterey firemen by the time you read this; if they miss your house, tickets will be on sale at the Monterey General Store. This year the Monterey Fire Department calendar will include no less than 24 annual events, including the steak roast, a record of activities that is both exemplary and indicative of a highly professional organization, right here in River City.

So come on out to the Firehouse on July 28 to see your neighbors and support your Firefighters.

— George Emmons

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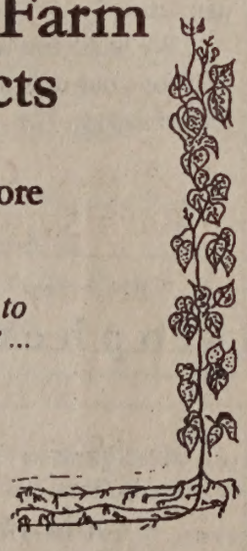

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Library Summer Activities

Storytelling on Saturdays

There will be storytelling for children at the Monterey Library on four consecutive Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. in July and August.

On July 14, "I Love Monterey Day," Alicia Quintano will perform "How the Stars Came to Be and Other Tales of Magical Beginnings," a program of stories and songs for children nine and younger and their families. Featured are a story of the constellations, an Alaskan folktale, a tale told on the patch of a pioneer quilt, and original humorous songs. Alicia trained as an actress and toured in children's theater. Her stories have been described as "funny, touching, and universal," and her songs bring smiles to audiences of all ages.

On Saturday, July 21, Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell will present a program titled "Imagine That: Stories and Songs that Celebrate Reading." It includes a variety of stories and songs to fire the imagination. These veteran storytellers have appeared in the area many times and have always been big hits.

The above performances are made possible by grants from the Monterey Cultural Council, a Town board supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The story continues with two of Monterey's own storytellers. On Saturday, July 28, Kathy Bracken will tell the Rudyard Kipling story of the "Elephant's Children." And the programs will conclude on Saturday, August 4, with the talented and popular Anson Olds. He's still making up his story, but judging by last year's performance it's likely to be a whopper.

All programs begin at 10 a.m. at the Monterey Library on Main Road.

Summer Reading Program

The Library is again sponsoring a summer reading program for children of all ages and their families. This year's program, on the theme "First of All . . . Read," will run from July 14 to August 4 and celebrates firsts of all kinds — athletics, inventions, exploration, discoveries, and more. Prizes will be awarded to children who complete the program.

Educators know that children who read for the joy of it are the best readers, and families that read together provide the strongest model for future readers.

More information and registration sheets are available at the Library.

Book Sale

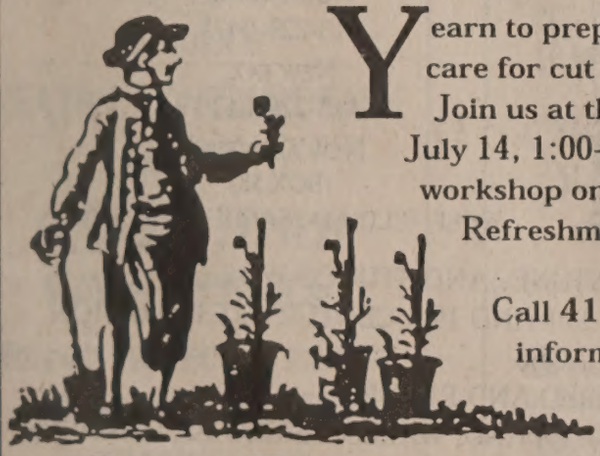
The Library's annual book sale will be held in conjunction with "I Love Monterey Day" on Saturday, July 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Library lawn. Thousand of good reads will be available at bargain basement prices (and we really would like to get them out of our basement so we can use it for programs once again). Come on out and support your library while you find good entertainment for the beach or for rainy days. But if that day is one of those rainy days, the sale rain date is the Saturday of the Firemen's Steak Roast, July 28, same hours.

Any kindhearted souls out there who want to help the Trustees set up tables and carry the books out of the basement, beginning at 8 a.m. on the sale day, will earn our undying gratitude, and perhaps other rewards. If you need more information or know that you want to volunteer, call the Library, 528-3795, or Will Marsh, 528-4347.

Historical Society Museum Open on Monterey Day

The Museum Room of the Monterey Historical Society will be open on "I Love Monterey Day" from 9 a.m. until noon. Come see us on Saturday, July 14, and have a look at artifacts from prior times. We have great photographs and other graphic reminders of what life in Monterey used to be.

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP



Yearn to prepare, arrange and care for cut flowers like a pro? Join us at the farm on Saturday, July 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m. for a special workshop on flower arranging. Refreshments included.

Call 413-258-4929 for more information and to register.

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10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Rain or Shine

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Jean Germain Photograph Exhibit at Naoussa Gallery

"The Human Figure," an exhibit of photographs by Monterey photographer Jean Germain will open on July 20 at the Naoussa Gallery in Tyringham. Germain experiments with the camera to create impressionistic images and special effects. Some of her techniques include creating images with rear projection through textured glass, polaroid transfer, specialized filters, infrared black & white, zooming effects, and time night exposures. She divides her time between Monterey and Sarasota, Florida. There will be an artist's reception on Sunday, July 22 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Naoussa Gallery is located in a renovated barn at 8 Main Road, Tyringham. It opened for the season on July 1 and will remain open through October. The hours are Friday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment. Naoussa is the studio/gallery of Ricki Cowell, printmaker/photographer.

The gallery will also present works of a number of other Berkshire and New England artists. It will feature photography, prints, artists' books, and other works in paper, mixed media, small sculpture, and fiber art. There will be several openings during the season, and the beginning of an artist-in-residence program.

For more information, call Ricki Cowell at (413) 243-1812, or e-mail: naoussa66@aol.com.

20th Annual Knox Trail Run Set for July 14

On "I Love Monterey Day," Saturday, July 14, the twentieth annual Monterey road race, the Knox Trail Run will take place, beginning at 9:30 a.m. This race will be preceded by the Kid's Fun Run at 9:00 a.m. Registration is on the day of the race starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. The fee for the Knox Trail race is $6.00. A Race T-shirt is available for $6.00. The Kid's Fun Run is free.

The course of the Knox Trail Run is a hilly 4.5 miles of tree-shaded paved and dirt roads that are a test of most runners' ability to adjust to a variety of racing conditions. The race starts near the Monterey Town Hall and proceeds west to Curtis Road and Gould Farm Road, then up Wellman Road to New Marlborough Road. It continues to Route 23 and the finish line back in the center of town. Water is available near the two- and four-mile markers on the course. The Kid's Fun Run follows a new off-road course around the ball field.

Previous years' records were set by Michael Morrissey, July 17, 1993, at 23:44 and Angela Hearn, July 18, 1987, at 26:24.

For more information call race director Ron McMahon, 413-528-9341.

Tree Warden Reports Trees Planted along Town Roads

This past spring fifteen new trees were planted along our highways in Monterey. Bruce Kelley's private contribution of $629 bought a four-inch oak, which we planted on Route 23 in front of his home. George Norian contribute $150 toward the purchase and planting of a maple tree on the lawn of the Main House at Gould Farm to replace one we had to take down. The Monterey Land Trust donated $1,500 and the Monterey Fire Company donated $1,000 toward the purchase and planting of nine red maples on River Road and two sugar Maples, one at Leroy and Linda Thorpe's, and the second next door at the Sheridan's. Fran and Dean Amidon and Steve Funk both got trees planted on their lawns. I did have to draw from my tree warden's budget to cover the balance of the planting project.

I hope to plant at least this many trees every year. Please call me with your thoughts on desired future planting locations and species of trees you would like to see planted.

— Roger Tryon, Tree Warden

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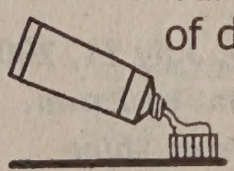

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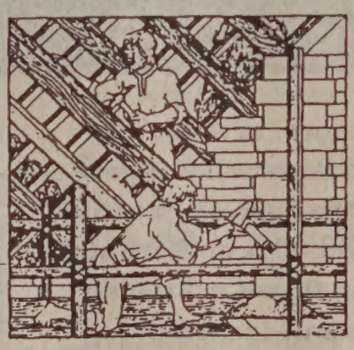
Route 23 Monterey



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Reflections of Memorial Day

It certainly was a pleasure and honor for all of us who participated in the two events on Memorial Day.

We are grateful to those who celebrated Memorial Day at the service at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park and to all who worked so diligently to present a successful parade and memorial service at 1 p.m.

Some forget the purpose of Memorial Day, the tremendous sacrifices made by veterans and their families throughout the life of this great and free country, but it is apparent that Monterey citizens and guests do remember and celebrate this day with thoughtfulness and enthusiasm. All Veterans thank you.

— Veterans Memorial Committee
Dean P. Amidon, Frank D'Amato, Arnold A. Hayes, Georgiana O'Connell

Chandler Crawford

Selectman Fred Chapman and Monterey Firemen Maynard Forbes and Ian Rodgers prepare to toss the memorial wreath in the Konkapot river during Memorial Day observance. Ian left for the Coast Guard the next day.

Land Trust Annual Meeting Set for July 28

Members and Friends of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust are invited to the annual meeting, which will be held in Lew and Joyce Scheffey's garden on Steak Roast Day morning, July 28, at 11:30 a.m. If it rains the meeting will be held in the Scheffey house.

Members who have not yet rejoined this year are asked to please do so before the meeting so you will be able to vote on whatever new business may come before the board.

A vote will be held to reinstate the present board and elect new nominees. The present board members are: Mary Brock, Fred Chapman, Suzanne Hoppenstedt, Georgiana O'Connell, Storrs Olds, Kathryn Roberts, Joyce Scheffey, Jon Sylbert, and Roger Tryon. Anyone who would like to nominate a board member or to run for a position on the board should please contact Suzanne Hoppenstedt at 528-1786.

Jon Sylbert will lead a discussion on the future of the Land Trust. You are welcome to bring a picnic if you so desire.

ॐ

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Exchange of Mercury Fever Thermometers Continues

The mercury fever thermometer exchange at the Children's Health Program (CHP) in Great Barrington scheduled to end June 30 has been extended until all of the digital thermometers have been distributed. South Berkshire households participating in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Family Support Network, or Early Intervention programs can continue to bring mercury fever thermometers to CHP, 54 Castle Street, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to exchange for a free digital thermometer.

Distribution of free digital thermometers began in April. Over one hundred mercury thermometers have been collected for safe disposal. The mercury content in this small number of thermometers is enough to contaminate a one-thousand-acre body of water, enough to render the fish in that water inedible. Exposure to mercury from a broken thermometer or consuming mercury-contaminated fish can cause health problems and is particularly dangerous to fetal development and children.

Project partners, including the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, CET, CHP, Great Barrington Department of Public Works, and Brooks Pharmacy, encourage eligible families to participate in this free program. A free publication "Mercury Thermometers and Your Family's Health" is available to anyone by contacting Joy Kirschenbaum at CET, 1-800-238-1221, or joyk@cetonline.org.

South Berkshire Family Network July News

This is a partial list of the events and services provided by the Family Network in July. Please call (413) 528-0721 for complete list.

Summer is a wonderful time to get out and enjoy the outdoors and the many wonderful parks and cultural sites in our area. Be sure to pack wisely for day trips, including sun screen, water, insect repellant and a change of clothes. We have a display of places to visit at the Family Center. We will also plan field trips and special activities on Thursdays in July and August.

We welcome a new family newspaper to Berkshire County, *The Family Beat*. The first issue will be out in July. For more information, please check the web site: www.thefamilybeat.com.

The Southern Berkshire Regional School District has offered the Family Network the use of a preschool room at Undermountain School for two afternoons a week beginning in September. We are surveying families to estimate the need for a three- and four-year-old preschool program. Letters have been sent to families who reside in the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts. Families who are interested in such a program are asked to contact Claudette Callahan, 528-0721 or Delinda Anderson, 528-9311 ext. 19 for more information.

On Thursday, July 5, at 10:30 a.m. there will be a hike and tour at the Fish Hatchery, Hatchery Road, Hartsville. Children will get to see trout and salmon and hike through the woods.

On Thursday, July 12, there will be sand and water play from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at Benedict Pond, Monterey. Parking fee is waived. Please say you are with Children's Health Program. Bring a picnic lunch. There are some places to hike as well.

Lecture at Gould Farm on Preventing Mental Disorders

Dr. Martin Gittelman, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at New York University Medical School, will present a lecture on "Tertiary Prevention of Mental Disorders," on Saturday, July 14, at 2 p.m. at Gould Farm, Monterey. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Dr. Gittelman is Executive Secretary of Mental Health Workers without Borders and is a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO). He is also a member of the Gould Farm Board of Directors. His most recent publication, "Tertiary Prevention of Mental Disorders" appears in the *Textbook of Community Psychiatry*, Oxford University Press, (2001).

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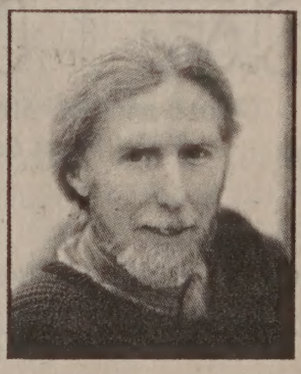

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State Parks and Forests July Events

July 4: Come with the family and enjoy Independence Day at one of the Massachusetts state forests and parks. Most parks offer a day use facility with opportunities to picnic and hike on extensive trails. Some of our picturesque lakes, ponds, and river have lifeguards on duty during the hot summer days. Interpretive programs are offered throughout the summer at Natural Bridge State Park, Mt. Greylock, Greylock Glen, Savoy Mt., Mohawk Trail State Forest, Western Gateway Heritage State Park, Pittsfield State Forest, Tolland State Forest, D.A.R. State Forest, and Beartown State Forest.

July 7: Monterey, Beartown State Forest, 9 to 11 a.m., Mountain Biking Adventure along the back roads of the forest. Interested bikers should meet at the ORV parking area on Benedict Pond Road. Bring plenty of water and wear your biking helmet. Tour lead by park interpreter Jeanne Schnackenberg.

July 7: Monterey, Beartown, 2:30–4:30 p.m., Poetry Writing in Nature. Join naturalist Tammif Coffin, and become creative in nature. She will instruct participants in writing poetry. Interested people should meet at the beach area.

July 11: Monterey, Beartown State Forest, Every Wednesday from 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Osteoporosis Exercise Group will meet at Benedict Pond for a light workout. Join Jeanne Schnackenberg for a variety of stretches and strengthening exercises in the great outdoors. Bring plenty of water, a chair and a towel.

July 14: Monterey, Beartown State Forest, Swann Lodge, Brett Road, "I Love Monterey Day," 10 a.m., Plaque Dedication Ceremony In Memory of Edith Arnold Stafford, on "Rocky Hill." This natural 80-acre woodland was donated to the Commonwealth and its citizens in 1964 by Earle Stafford, Swann Forest Supervisor (1921–41), and his children, William, Evalyn, Gordon, and Shelton, in memory of beloved wife and mother Edith Arnold Stafford. Program includes: speakers, history of area, and a tour of the exotic forest.

July 18: Monterey, Beartown State Forest, 10 a.m., "Garbage is My Bag," at Benedict Pond. This hilarious staged variety show explores some serious environmental issues. Jack Golden can juggle, joke, sing, and dance his way out of any trash heap! Jack uses the power of live performance to engage children in critical thinking about solid waste problems and ways to solve them. It's a fun and educational way to learn about recycling, reducing and reusing.

July 20: Otis, Tolland State Forest, 7–8 p.m., "Birds in Their Habitat," at Comfort Station #2. "Birds in Their Habitat" is a comic yet educational show created and performed by Henry Lappen. He uses realistic handmade masks to explore how different birds have evolved different shapes and behaviors to adapt to their environments. Participants get a chance to try on the masks and soar as eagles, stalk as herons and swim like puffins.

July 26: Monterey, Beartown State Forest, 10–11:30 a.m. Hike around Benedict Pond with naturalist Jeanne Schnackenberg. Bring plenty of water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Don't forget to wear sunscreen and bug repellant.

All programs are sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and are opened to the public. There is a parking fee as you enter the park.

For more information on programs please call Jeanne Schnackenberg, (413) 528-0904.

Notes for Lake Garfield Lovers

If you want to protect, preserve and enhance Lake Garfield for the use and enjoyment of all members of the Monterey community, why not join us for an hour. The Lake Garfield Association invites you to our next meeting, on July 21, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., at the Monterey Firehouse.

You're also invited to LakeFest, on August 18 at the Town Beach. It'll be lots of fun for the whole family. Watch next month's *Monterey News* for information on all the festivities.

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Rep Rap

Well, summer has finally arrived and we all know what that means. It's time to pack up the car for that long-awaited vacation, family reunion, or wedding celebration. Whatever your reason for hitting the road, summer is the time when more Americans are traveling by car, despite the rising gasoline prices. Yet as our friends and neighbors visit far and wide, most of them do not take the necessary precautions to insure a safe trip, including wearing seat belts.

Approximately 1,500 people have been killed on Massachusetts roadways in the last four years with 7 out of 10 of those killed not wearing safety belts. At least half of the 77,000 people of all ages who sustained injuries as car-crash victims in 1999 also did not buckle up. Observed safety belt use among teenagers was as low as 37 percent and fatalities for this age group are rapidly increasing. Finally, Massachusetts is ranked 46th out of 50 states in seat belt usage. That means that at least 2 million Massachusetts drivers and passengers do not buckle up on a regular basis.

Many people think, How will this restraint help me if my car is hit? Studies show that a person wearing a safety belt is 50 percent more likely to survive a crash than someone who is not wearing one. They also show that children are more likely to use seat belts if their parents do. When a driver is wearing a safety belt, children are buckled 87 percent of the time, compared to 24 percent of the time when their parents do not wear a seat belt. If seat belt usage increased it is estimated that 680,000 motorists would wear safety belts, which would result in 25-30 fewer deaths and 3,000 to 4,000 less injuries a year. The financial costs of car accidents and fatalities, such as medical care, emergency treatment, insurance, loss of work and productivity, would also decrease if more people wore seat belts.

The current law in Massachusetts pertaining to seat belt use requires any person driving or riding in private passenger vehicles or driving in vanpools or trucks under 18,000 pounds to wear a safety belt. The usage is monitored through secondary enforcement; a driver can only be cited for not wearing a seat belt if he or she is stopped for a different motor vehicle violation or another offense. The Legislature is currently examining a bill to monitor seat belt use through primary enforcement, thus allowing police officers to cite drivers and passengers solely for not wearing a safety belt. It is believed that only primary enforcement of the seat belt law will increase the rates of usage. In fact, states that have a primary enforcement law have an average seat belt use rate of 79 percent, compared to the 62 percent safety belt use rates in states with secondary enforcement laws.

So if it's just a quick trip to the grocery or a drive across the country, please get into the habit of wearing your seat belt. It's there for your protection. Should you have any questions regarding this or any other matter, please contact my district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

Senator Says

Senate FY02 Budget

This is getting to be a tradition: the annual "good news for small towns" report from the Senate version of the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This year, additional good news comes from a FY01 capital supplemental budget adopted by the Senate on the same day we finished hammering out our FY02 budget recommendation.

Chapter 90

The state Senate reaffirmed its commitment to full funding of the Chapter 90 account by appropriating an additional $50 million for local road maintenance and construction for FY01. As your local highway superintendent will tell you, there has been an ongoing disagreement involving the Governor, the Legislature and the Massachusetts Municipal Association regarding the adequacy of state funding for this program. The administration has claimed that $100 million per year is enough to keep local roads and bridges in good repair. The Senate and municipal officials have maintained that $150 million is the right figure. Last year, the Senate overrode the Governor's veto of $50 million in funding. The House did not fully override the veto, so the Governor's $100 million figure prevailed. The $50 million appropriated recently was the Senate's latest volley in this ongoing discussion.

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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Small Town Roadway Assistance Program

As of this writing, the Small Town Roadway Assistance Program (STRAP) is due to expire in about two weeks. This program, which provides grants of up to $500,000 for projects in small towns, has been very popular in my district. At least six towns from this area (Charlemont, Chester, Florida, Plainfield, New Marlborough, and Worthington) have been waiting to hear whether they will receive funding through the STRAP program. And waiting and waiting and waiting: three or four years is not an unusual wait between submitting an application to the Massachusetts Highway Department and receiving notification regarding a grant award.

Under the circumstances, I consider my successful STRAP amendment to be a big victory in the FY02 budget debate. The amendment I filed in the Senate will extend the STRAP program for two years. It will also require Mass Highway to act on applications within 45 days of receiving them, indicating either approval or disapproval of the funding request. This will allow local officials and residents to proceed with capital budgeting and promote better communication and efficiency in the STRAP process in general.

Education

The FY02 Senate budget included a $315 million increase over FY01 in funding for public education programs. Most of the new money is outside of Chapter 70, which is the standard aid distributed to school districts. The bulk of the increased funding will go toward reduced class sizes and MCAS tutoring. My Senate colleagues and I also fully funded the regional school transportation line item, increasing by over $2.4 million over last year's figure.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

I submitted two amendments to restore funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) line item. In April, I explained in this column that land revaluation and underfunding in the Governor's budget recommendation had resulted in significantly lower projected payments to many towns that host state forests and parks. My amendments asked for full funding of this program and requested a "hold harmless" provision, to maintain last year's funding level for towns whose PILOT payments had fallen. My Senate colleagues supported full funding for the program, increasing the allocation from $21 to $31 million. Unfortunately, the "hold harmless" provision was not approved. I hope to work with local officials to identify programs, such as STRAP (see above) or community development grants that can help to meet local needs in the wake of reduced PILOT funds in affected communities.

Agricultural Fairs

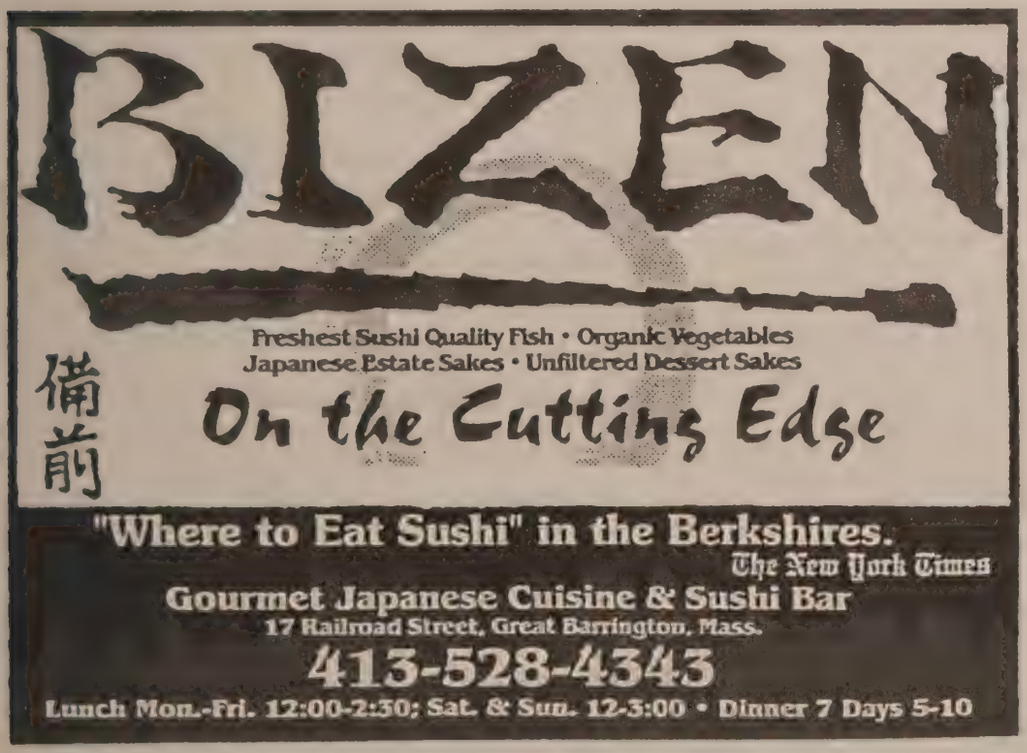
Last year, there was an earmark of $200,000 in the budget to be used for agricultural fair prizes. By helping to cover the costs of premiums paid to exhibitors, this state funding allowed these economic and cultural events to survive. Neither the Governor or the House requested the $200,0000 in their budget recommendations for the upcoming year. I am happy to report that the Senate provided the $200K for prizes and added $150,000 to help rehabilitate fairgrounds facilities. This funding has special meaning for western Massachusetts as these fairs are an annual milestone for youngsters in 4H groups, and are a cherished community tradition for residents of all ages. The $350,000 included by the Senate for FY02 takes the form of a new line item specifically for agricultural fairs instead of an earmark within a larger line item as it appeared in previous years.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

Lake Garfield Torah Group

The season's first gathering of the Lake Garfield Torah Group of Monterey took place on Saturday morning, June 8. The Torah study group discussed the Book of Numbers, Ch.VIII–XII and the Book of Zechariah, Ch.II–IV and especially Ch.X, v.35, "Rise up O Lord and let Thine enemies be scattered"; Ch.XII, v.1, "And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses"; and Ch.IV, v.6, "Not by military force and not by physical force but by my Spirit saith the Lord of the hosts of creation." Musaf prayers and kiddush followed.

Other books to be discussed include the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses' Farewell Discourses and Song to Israel, and the Prophet Isaiah. Additional participants are sought. More information is available at (413) 644-9147 and (413) 567-8171.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Anthropoesy—Dragonfly Days

In main lesson today
we learned of the mighty conquest
of the Great Greeness
(Lord of all living things)
how all things come and go
how love shines from our brow
if we have died at least once
and are courageous as dragonflies
and that is the only solution
to a world gone mad

In Spanish lesson today
we learned how the movement
of tongue and lips is attuned
to the swing of hips
how very careful we must be
that every word has rhythm

In German lesson today
we learned that speech is vibration is spirit
and we are what we speak
that waltzing is embarrassing at first,
but prerequisite for embracing your lover

In Mathematics lesson today
we learned that raindrops have no number
and their relationship to each other
is arbitrary
needless to say, to run a store
you must erect an awning
composed of triangles and
parallelograms

In Physical Education today
we learned that the stranger and longer
our legs become, competition is inescapable
and we must hurdle the walls of hatred
that the more agile and limber our arms become,
cooperation is like eating
and we are more able to give

In Handwork and Woodwork today
we learned that hands and work are synonymous
that time disappears through the window
of knit and pearl
that space is what is shaved and carved off

In Music lesson today
we learned that it is in the air,
everywhere, all the time
that, like flowers, it is the language of
infinity
that we and everything are instruments
that Ludwig van Beethoven would come
to play piano for Joseph Haydn
in Haydn's old age

In Painting lesson today
we learned how the eye was married to the hand
in the tiny chapel in the center
of a dandelion blossom
that anguish and desolation are the colors
of old, wet, rotting bark
that, like poetry, it is pointless
not to be clear ... and
it is not so easy to paint the scent
of lilacs in the wind

In Eurythmy lesson today
we learned to celebrate
the metamorphosis of words to action
that we must question everything
that what one says and
what one does are inseparable
and there are many ways
to boogaloo

In Science, extra main lesson today
we learned how vivid, abundant and wild
blossoming is in the highest passes

>

The Cobwebs Of Gower: The Mermaid Inn

(Notes for a poem on Mumbles, a Welsh seaside resort)

American girl summer work bent over vacuum
blue jeans yellow bandana halter
working morning-after in bar
people-bottles rigid corseted by labels
leatherette faded vermouth chairs empty scuffed
horses' brasses never on horses
carious carpet worn by exits
smell: stale ale fetid cigar drowned cigarettes

not the best hotel!

halls puce and peeling sectioned by implacable firedoors
(chicken-wired glass and metal)
rats' maze? magician's coffin?
bedroom: open long lank draperies in room full of sighs
put out chair on grimy balcony ornate iron railing heavy
holding banner which I forget to lean over and read (?)
look out on promenade:
pale mother dress too large two whining boys
(matching clothes)
fragile hag bird-bones sweet face
(cane. string bag with box of tea)

local lawyer (?) fire-faced paunched watch-chain smile
flat feet
three cocky boyos platform shoes hard scuffing
heels loud
coke can and tickets in gutter (tickets to what?)

masts of sailboats moored rocking crucifixing grey silk sea
mauve mountains brooding druiding in distance
a soft imminence of rain
a doublebed tattered tufted apricot spread
I would be ashamed to lead you to it

night: streetlight blares on ceiling curtains don't meet
lie longing for magic Merlin, where are you?
why am I here? why did I come?

morning: bacon smell bill-to-pay
vacuum yawning again: (Dylan Thomas too long gone!)
it has sucked up all his veil words
torn cobwebs the cobwebs of Gower.

—A. O. Howell

---

how we sit around a pond of knowledge
how we notice at the edge of that pond
a shimmering chrysalis
how slowly, steadily the chrysalis molts,
unfolds to recognition
how the young dragonfly emerges,
teeters on a blade of grass,
testing its wings
how bravely, clumsily it trys to lift off,
often falling back, but finally,
finally, finally into the meadow
. . . . . .

and into the meadow you go
and may the lowest part of the meadow
serve you as well as the highest
and may there always be plenty
of fresh, organic mosquitos to eat
and may your wings serve as a bridge
to a child's form drawing

— R. Zukowski

Dinah's Back with a Review

The Giver, by Lois Lowry

The Giver is a Newbury Award winner. It takes place in a community in the future. This community is very different from ours. At first glance it seems perfect, but once you look closer you see that it's anything but perfect.

Every December, that year's eleven-year-old children go through the ceremony of turning twelve. During their twelve years, the elders have observed their activities. The elders choose their jobs for them. They are assigned normal jobs such as fish hatchery attendant, caretaker of the old, nurturer, and so on. This year one person was singled out from the rest. Jonas was to become the next Receiver of Memory. Not just the community's memories but memories from the whole world. Jonas and the Giver (the Receiver of Memories), are the only two people in the community to have these memories.

This book is extremely interesting. It makes you think about life in the future and the possibilities of what could happen. I recommend it to more advanced readers.

— Dinah Mielke

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Benefit Concert for Crofut Children's Arts Fund

On Saturday, July 7, at 8 p.m., Triple Play will perform at the Sandisfield Arts Center in a concert to benefit the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children.

"Triple Play" is the name given to three versatile musicians, Peter "Madcat" Ruth (on harmonica, guitar, jaw harp, percussion, and vocals), Joel Brown (folk and classical acoustic guitar and vocals), and Chris Brubeck (electric bass, bass trombone, piano, and vocals). Collectively they bring a rare level of joy, virtuosity, and American spirit to the folk, blues, jazz, and classical music they perform.

In 1998, tragedy struck when banjo player and folk singer, Bill Crofut, was diagnosed with cancer. It was decided that Madcat, whom *Performance Magazine* refers to as "a harmonica virtuoso who is rapidly approaching legend status," would fill in for Bill and the concerts were a great success. Crofut, who had carved out a unique musical legacy combining folk, jazz, classical, and blues elements, passed away in January 1999. The group Triple Play expands upon his eclectic and exciting musical tradition.

Chris Brubeck, son of Dave Brubeck, enjoys a diverse career playing three instruments, arranging and composing, producing CDs, and writing lyrics and music that has been recorded by a wide range of artists from Frederica Von Stade to Patti Labelle. Chris performed on and co-produced Mr. Crofut's final recording, "Dance on a Moonbeam," a remarkable CD made to benefit children's charities. Joel Brown worked with Bill Crofut and Chris Brubeck for nearly a decade and is featured on seven of the recordings made during this time, including "Bach to Brubeck" recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra.

The Sandisfield Arts Center is located on Hammertown Road off Rt. 57 in Sandisfield. Tickets for Triple Play are $25 with proceeds going to the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children of Sandisfield. The fund was established by the Sandisfield Arts Center to honor Bill Crofut's memory and his lifelong support of children and the arts. Tickets, which will be held at the door, should be reserved in advance by calling (413) 258-4904.

Dinah Also Recommends

Tikvah Means Hope, by Patricia Polacco

Tikvah Means Hope is one of Patricia Polaceo's many picture books. It is based on a true story. In this book everything is fine, Mr.Roth, Justine, and Duane made the Sakkath for the Jewish harvest holiday. Everything seems perfect for the holidays until disaster strikes. The only hope for the families is a small cat named Tikvah (which means hope in Hebrew).

This picture book is really good. The story has a good theme, and each page has colorful drawings by Patricia Polacco. This book is great for everyone!

— Dinah Mielke

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David Dashiell, New Bidwell House Director

David Armistead Dashiell has been named the new Bidwell House Museum Executive Director by Bidwell House Board President Maria Carvainis. Armistead's credentials for this position are outstanding, and credit is due to the five members of the Bidwell House Director Search Committee. The committee consists of Bill Brockman, Jack Jefferson, and David Walker-Price (all are Original Founding Members), as well as senior Bidwell Board Member Jim Miller, and President Maria Carvainis. Their persistence, diligence, and devotion to their task all deserve high fives from other Board Members, as well as from all the members of The Bidwell House Society.

The season of summer events last year was put together by Interim Director Lisa Simpson, after Anita Carroll-Weldon resigned to take a position with The Horatio House in Keene, New Hampshire. David is now in residence in the circa 1750 Colonial saltbox, and the timing of his arrival is impeccable. The storm clouds of facing the coming schedule without a director have rolled by, and the Search Committee have indeed done their job, confirming that there can be gold at the end of the rainbow.

Dashiell hails from Norfolk Virginia, attending Norfolk Academy there before going on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania College of General Studies, where he very wisely took a course in fund-raising management, and then earned his Master's Degree of Architectural History at the University of Virginia. Since graduating, he has at one time or another been associated as a member of the following organizations, all of which contribute to his qualifications to be Bidwell House Director.

- American Assoc. for State and Local History
- American Assoc. of Museums
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- New England House Association
- New England Museum Association

George Emmons

The past six years, David was Assistant Director at The Wagner Free Institute of Science in Philadelphia, an educational institute as well as a natural history museum. While there, he also taught an Elderhostel class on Frances Wister and Preservation in Philadelphia. He subsequently presented a paper at a conference at Bryn Mawr College on Wister, founder of Landmarks Society, on "Reclaiming Women's History Through Historic Preservation." For two years before that, David was Historic Site Manager at the Powel House, also in Philly, managing collections of Colonial furnishings and decorative arts. He also served previously with several firms as a consultant and archivist, publishing papers at the 1987 national conference of Art Libraries of North America.

David also participated in the archaeological excavation of the outbuildings and garden structures of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Since taking residence at Bidwell, David says he is already getting an insight into the vision and wisdom of Mr. Jack Hargis and Mr. David Brush, original founders of the treasured legacy they left behind, perhaps best expressed in the current Mission Statement: "The Bidwell House, Inc., is organized to interpret the natural and cultural history of the Berkshires, from 1750 to the present, through the presentation and preservation of the resources of The Bidwell House Museum, the land, architecture and collection."

Our new Director is also a very nice guy, and has a great sense of humor. He is a descendant of Dashiell Hammett, the famous mystery writer, and is interested in drama, having had a lead role in a Broadway production of Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town*. He likes being out of an inner city, and relates well to a house museum, rather than a larger institutional organization. The sturdy old landmark at the end of Art School Road that preserves Monterey's past has revitalized leadership to face the future.

— George Emmons

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Chandler Crawford

Ellen Grenadier, Potter

It all started with a bowl. One day last summer, on the way home from the beach, my daughter Lily and I finally stopped at that "pottery place" on Tyringham Road. The large doors of the converted garage were open and, despite the heat, there was a breeze in the studio of potter Ellen Grenadier. I was instantly enchanted, recognizing her mugs as the same that I had enjoyed drinking tea from at Uncommon Grounds in Great Barrington. The studio was filled with lovely mugs, plates and vases and I felt at ease browsing, not planning on purchasing anything. Then I saw it.

The bowl was green, a soft warm green looking toward fall; leaves had been pressed in the clay and it seemed as if they had fallen gently off the tree. I fell in love with the bowl and decided to buy it for my brother's birthday, vowing to return when I had more money in my pocket than only enough to buy a popsicle. I didn't return for about three days, worried that "my" bowl had been sold, but luckily it was there. The bowl never did make it to my brother's house. It remains in our kitchen, and we use it literally every day. I appreciate it as much today as I did when I bought it one year ago.

In the fall my husband, Fred, and I started searching for something to do with Lily, who was not in preschool or kindergarten yet. I saw an advertisement in the *Monterey News* that Grenadier Pottery offered private and semiprivate classes and decided that Lily, Fred, and I constituted a semiprivate group (and I secretly wished that I could become a master potter in a few short lessons). Soon we started pottery classes with Ellen each Thursday afternoon.

Ellen Grenadier has been making tableware, custom tiles, and murals for over thirty years. Ten years ago she moved her studio and gallery to Monterey from the Boston area. Living in the Berkshires has been deeply influential in her work. She currently works on a line of stoneware that incorporates impressions of leaves from her own trees in elegant bowls, plates, sushi platters, and more, all glazed with natural cobalt blues, copper greens, and iron ambers to achieve the colors found in nature. No molds or forms are used, but the result is nevertheless perfect. We made tiles with leaves from our own woods, and they made wonderful and special gifts. If lacking in the artistry of Ellen's work, they shared her energy and joy in working with clay.

We learned what an enormous amount of work it takes to make a tile, a vase, or a bowl. Ellen is a perfect teacher. With jazz or classical music playing in the background, she would guide each of us through the steps of our particular project. Lily played with clay and then Ellen showed her how to make impressions with the leaves. She then talked me through the process of the ancient coil building method and supplied Fred with

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just enough guidance on the potter's wheel to make his vases and bowls come out nicely. As we spent more time with Ellen and got to know her more, she shared with us why she loved pottery so much: "What I like most is making artful pottery that will be used every day—objects that bring the intimacy of the handmade into people's homes and that urge them to stop and enjoy the experience of dining. My work is an expression of the joy and gratitude I have for being alive transformed into the colors, textures, and forms of pottery. I work in hopes that some of this spirit will be contributed to the tables of people who use my pottery."

A week would pass as our clay creations dried and Ellen fired them in her kiln with some of her own work. In the spring she also used her kiln to fire the seder plates that students at Hevreh Temple had made for their families with Ellen's guidance and direction.

Luckily we were able to see as well the process Ellen went through as she explored various styles, shapes, and glazes in perfecting a new line of tableware for a commission from a special client. We then used the glazes that she makes from scratch — a complicated process resulting in gorgeous colors that can be either vibrant and playful or soft and elegant.

In the winter when the local flora is not available, Ellen works with majolica on terra-cotta, a tradition that originated in the Middle East. In the eighth century the Moors came from Northern Africa to Spain and brought this ceramic knowledge with them. Spanish potters then made Muslim-inspired work in this method. The Italians who imported this ware from the Spanish port of Majorca called it Majolica. Exports from Italy to France tended to be called Faience after Faenza. When Italian potters brought tin-glaze methods to the Dutch, the ware exported from Delft was called Delftware. Each area gave its own feeling for color and decorative rhythm to the ware. Here in Monterey, Ellen Grenadier gives her own feeling and rhythm of trees, leaves, and flowers. Washes of color are painted over the clay and melt into a smooth white base glaze. Her work is a stylish blend of well-crafted form and surface decoration that is playful and loose. The glazed surfaces are pleasing to the hand, and the pots are balanced and feel good to use.

Lily enjoyed the majolica, as she could play with more colors and have fun with the paintbrush on the terra-cotta. She has moved from useful objects such as tiles and plates to using clay to make sculptures, an idea she had after Ellen suggested putting pieces of clay onto a bowl that Lily had made. The sculptures are silly and wonderful and Lily adores them. She is especially pleased that she was able to use Ellen's new glazes this spring.

For the first time in my life I like something artistic that I have made and proudly display my vase. Fred has enjoyed practicing on the wheel and sees that the pieces he made this spring are far improved to those from the fall. We are taking a sabbatical for the summer as the beach is a strong pull in the life of a five-year-old. But, come September, we plan to be back in Ellen's studio, to learn something new from her, to spend time together as we play, throw, and roll our clay.

Ellen teaches throughout the southern Berkshires and, luckily is here in Monterey in her studio/gallery. Her studio is next to the home she shares with her husband, Michael, and teenage daughter, Nicole. Look for her "open" sign at #12 Tyringham Road and stop in. While her work has been shown in galleries and at fairs throughout the U.S., you too can take a look at her new work shown in the gallery at her studio in Monterey. You might even catch Ellen throwing a bowl, attaching handles to a teapot, or pressing leaves into a dinner plate. You can always pick up a bowl for your brother's birthday or mugs as a hostess gift, knowing that they are truly one of a kind and will never be replicated. Next summer her work will be different, as Ellen is constantly changing and playing with various forms and glazes.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I picked up a belated present for my brother. His bowl is different from mine, but wonderful and unique in its own way. Or, if you find the pull as strong for Ellen Grenadier's work as it was for me, you can always buy two pieces — one for your brother AND one for yourself. Then you too might be inspired to take a class and spend time enjoying the process, marveling at the beauty of clay and the ease with which Ellen Grenadier teaches.

— Chandler Crawford

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Roadside Science: More Lessons from Larval Forms

On our kitchen table we have another metamorphic story unfolding, in a jar. This is the time of year when the insects zip through their life stories, so fascinating, so fast. You can put one in a jar, but you can't slow it down. Great changes occur between breakfast and lunch.

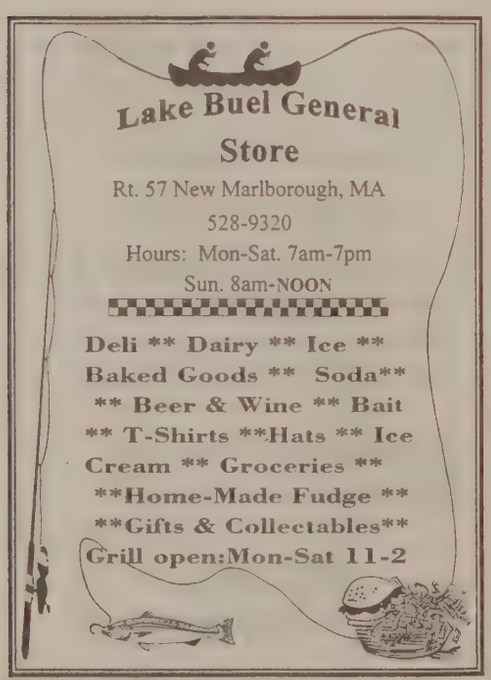
This story began one day when we were strolling up our dirt road. Some were focused on the dog, trotting along on olfactory business known only to her. Some were mentioning the weather. I was the one scanning the roadside vegetation, mainly because there are American chestnuts along this place, always launching a comeback. What I noticed this day, stark amidst the galloping greenery, was a small bush, denuded. It was a spare display of twigs, clearly living but without leaves except for one or two fragments. There were a few catkin-style blossoms still hanging, indicating happier days earlier in the spring, but mainly this was a shocking little naked bush, about six feet high.

The effect was all the more stark thanks to the presence of hundreds of large caterpillars, black with square orange spots down the back, and each section of the body ringed with pointy spears. I was moving from primitive startled to primitive investigatory and my mind said, "Tent caterpillars?" I think the naked twigs made me think of big hatches of tent caterpillars—but a quick look around revealed no tent, no webbing in the branches. Also the quickly recovering investigator was reviewing the body of knowledge to date: "Do tent caterpillars have spears like this? I don't think so—they are maybe a little long-haired, but not spear-bearing."

I decided to take home a few, for science. My last month's experience with the firefly larva made me think hard about sustenance. What kind of bush was this, anyhow? It was hard to tell, with no leaves. I nibbled the bark, still thinking about tent caterpillars and their love of cherry trees. It could have been a cherry, maybe, except for those catkins. By now the cherries were making cherries, not bunches of delicate catkinny blossoms. I took home a twig with four fine caterpillars on it, even though I didn't have any idea what I could feed them. I reasoned that if I left them on this particular bush they would have nothing more to eat in life anyway. But I did look around for any more similar bushes, with or without leaves and big black caterpillars. There were none of any of these.

Once home we brought the books to bear on the subject and found right away that these were larval mourning cloaks, butterflies of the family Nymphalidae, or brush-footed butterflies. The book says that the caterpillars "...feed in large groups, often defoliating trees," and that they eat willow, elm, and poplar. Thanks to the book, I was able to rush out to the scrubby willows below the garden and get a meal for my prisoners. I was thinking, "These are the lucky ones. Those caterpillars up along the roadside have nothing more to eat." But at the same time I was worrying, "Maybe they are not supposed to eat any more. Will they know enough to not eat when I shove this salad in their jar?"

Here is what happened. The caterpillars looked like they were unconscious on their bare old twigs. They just froze in place, even though I put new willow leaves right next to them. I did not jostle them, thinking maybe this was nap time. Sure enough, after a bit they all got roused by something and began moving around. They climbed over onto the new leaves and ate most gratifyingly. But then they got still again and just hung out in all that foliage. They were not completely still, however. From time to time one would start twitching, as if it had the full-body hiccups. Right away all four of them would twitch. The entire leafy twig would be twitching and all those black spears shaking this way and that. Sometimes a caterpillar would even add to the twitchiness of the situation by grabbing a leaf in its mouth and pulling it back and letting it go, kind of like plucking a taut string. This was not feeding behavior: no bite would be taken out of the leaf. (Also, feeding behavior is a sort of carving motion with the head, which shaves off



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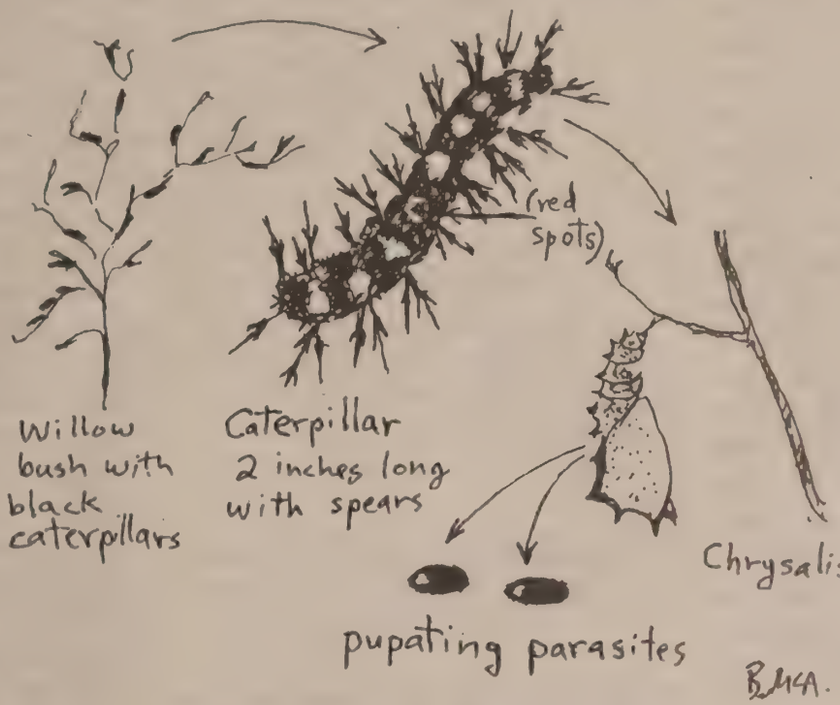
more leaf with every pass and does not rattle the branch.)

I was understanding that these caterpillars, for some reason (presumably), could work together to make a jumpy, shaky bush. I don't know if this sort of thing scares away predatory birds, but I am guessing it does. I know this is not mating behavior, sex being one worry caterpillars do not have. Their job is to eat and eat, grow and grow, and stay alive. Then there comes a time when their job is to change.

This time came five days ago here. The caterpillars stopped twitching and one by one they hung on by their tail ends, with the heads turned in a curve like the letter J. They stayed like that for as long as we were watching, and the minute we took our eyes off them, they began transforming themselves into chrysalises, marvelous sculptured containers in which butterflies do their pupating, or final change to adult form.

We were lucky enough to see one of our caterpillars split its skin up the middle as the chrysalis burst out. The caterpillar had been shivering and shaking a little—no actual twitches such as it used to do with its pals. The break in the skin occurred low down near the head, and this is where the biggest bulgiest part of the chrysalis poked forth. In a few minutes, the dark empty skin of the caterpillar dropped to the bottom of the jar like a cast off glove. The chrysalis hung, dark and shiny, with points here and there and something resembling a short cape on its "back." As we watched, the color changed, getting lighter and dustier. What had been a purplish element became pale violet to gray. There was a blush of salmon.

One caterpillar remained in a J. I poked it most gently to see if it would respond, and ever since have had to bear the guilt of the meddler since it fell from its point of attachment and landed on the bottom of the jar, never to budge again. Except for inspiring some subtle intra-family chastisement, this caterpillar was no longer the subject of our scrutiny—UNTIL, two days ago, we noticed a small foreign object lying right beside it. This looked like a dark brown shiny capsule, maybe a mini vitamin pill. The color and material told me it was a pupa of some insect and then I got it that this caterpillar must have been parasitized. Nature, in the form of some opportunistic fly or something, had stepped in days before my meddling finger hit the scene. An egg had been laid, hatched, and a larva had been making inroads in the corpus caterpillarus, unbeknownst to us. Hence, perhaps, its weak point of attachment and failure to make the change to chrysalis.



As you can tell, this story has no end. Will the new brown pupa metamorphose soon? Will we be there to see it? Can I keep my big mitts off whatever creature pops out? Will you have to read all about my ensuing angst in August, if I can't? I can tell you this, just this morning we found yet another foreign pupa. It did not come from the parasitized caterpillar, though. That and its parasitic pupa are in their own jar. This new little lozenge, at first creamy in color but now dark brown and shiny just exactly like the other one, popped out of a chrysalis — which is now looking markedly different from the other two. Apart from having a hole in its belly, the wound which expelled the little freeloader, this chrysalis has undergone a change in color. It has darkened, gotten purple. Has it died? Will it somehow pull off the butterfly thing despite having played host to a growing larval something? I can't say, and I will not poke it to find out. I will be patient and observant.

Speaking of observations, we have been back to the original cleaned-off willow shrub, and therein hangs yet another tale of detail. I will just tell you that five days ago there were many large caterpillars there, hanging in J's. Two days ago there were four chrysalises and that's all. Today there is one left. Nature has made good use of those hundreds of caterpillars, I'm sure, and turned them into all sorts of things. But at this rate there will be very few that stick to their original path and fly through life as mourning cloaks, hunting for just the right willow, poplar, or elm on which to lay a bunch of eggs and start all these stories up again.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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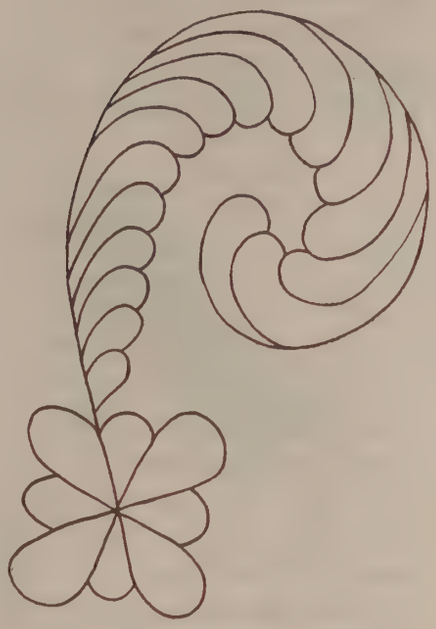
A Stitch in Time

Sixteen Monterey Quilts Documented Massachusetts History: Part 2 of 2

When the quilt documenters and other volunteers gathered in Sheffield on April 29 to participate in the statewide Quilt Documentation Project, Lynne Bassett came specifically to document the Bidwell House whole-cloth quilts. Ms. Bassett, the former textiles director of Old Sturbridge Village who created their historic quilt show "Northern Comfort," specializes in eighteenth-century quilts of this type. They look very different from images the word "quilt" conjures up today.

"Whole-cloth" quilts, like most quilts, are made of two layers of fabric with a third layer of fabric or fibers sandwiched in between and held in place with stitches. But the tops aren't pieced together to make a repeated pattern out of different cotton prints, like traditional American patchwork quilts. They aren't decorated with cutout pieces of cloth sewn on for decoration, like historic Baltimore or other appliquéd quilts. Their tops are made of a single piece of solid color fabric, or several pieces of the same color, and the decoration is entirely made by the patterns of quilt stitches.



Typical quilting motif used on whole-cloth quilts, 18th- and 19th-century North America

Many of them, particularly the earlier ones, are made of wool, including many of the Bidwell House quilts. Most have traditional American floral, leafy, scroll-like quilting patterns. One small red one, though, has a distinct geometric look to its quilting. Ms. Bassett says that it was probably made by Scotch-Irish immigrants, and is based on a pattern from the British Isles. All are in remarkably good condition, given their age and wool's vulnerability to moths.

A number of the later eighteenth- and the nineteenth-century quilts in the collection are also whole-cloth, but made of glazed cotton. Several of these are on display in the upstairs parlor chamber room at the Bidwell House Museum.

One white whole-cloth quilt with an eagle and banner created quite a stir among the volunteers. It is only the second of this specific eagle pattern any of the documenters or the volunteers who travelled with them had ever seen. While there's a woman in the Pioneer Valley who will be very disappointed to learn that her quilted eagle isn't one of a kind, Monterey has counted coup with yet another delightful "fiber find."

Drop in at the Bidwell House for a visit in real time (on Art School Road, 413 528-6888) or check the website, Bidwellhousemuseum.org.

— MaryKate Jordan

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"Walter the Postmaster"

When I was six, it was "Charlie the Butcher" at our local grocery store. He was a man old enough to be my grandfather who always spoke to me when my mother brought me shopping at the Quick Check, a tiny grocery store in the small town where we lived. Charlie always said something funny to me, like "You coming home with me today?" which I knew was a joke, or "See you got your helper today," which made me sit up taller in the seat of the cart. I looked forward to seeing Charlie, and always made sure my mother took a swing past the meat counter if we were in the store.

For my daughter, it was "Walter the Postmaster." After her kindergarten day ended, we would stop to get our mail and Walter was always there at the counter with a friendly "Hello!" for me and Katie. Like an attentive grandfather, he would listen with interest as Katie described what she had for lunch, or how she got a scratch on her knee. In all seriousness, he would answer her questions about how Santa got his mail. And somehow I suspect he had something to do with the reply Santa always sent Katie later. Katie loved going to see him and would ask me, "Will Walter be there?" when I had to run errands in Monterey.

Who could blame her? Walter was always cheerful, always helpful, always positive. When his retirement was announced in the *Monterey News*, my first reaction was sadness. Katie is ten, and too much like a pre-teen to giggle and chat with the postmaster. Time speeds on, and retirement is a well deserved chance to slow down and smell the roses.

Thank you, Walter, for all you have given over the years — the smiles, the Santa letters, the attention. You are one of those people, like Charlie the Butcher, who teach children and adults that the world is an okay place. People are friendly, life is pretty good, and postage is "only" 34 cents. That's a small price to pay for so much wisdom.

— Emily Olds

PO Box 9 01245

Horses And Traffic

To the Editor:

You're driving along one of our quiet country roads, and as you swing around a curve you suddenly come upon some horses being ridden. What do you do???
a. slam on your brakes and come to a screeching halt;
b. honk your horn;
c. pull up alongside, gun your engine, and speed away;
d. pull out to the middle of the road and speed past them.

Well, if you answered yes to *any* of the above, you're wrong!

Horses have the right of way in the state of Massachusetts. The law actually states:

Every person operating a motor vehicle shall bring the vehicle and the motor propelling it immediately to a stop when approaching a cow, horse or other draft animal being led, ridden or driven, if such animal appears frightened and if the person in charge thereof shall signal so to do; and, if traveling in the opposite direction to that in which such animal is proceeding, said vehicle shall remain stationary so long as may be reasonable to allow such animal to pass; or, if traveling in the same direction, the person operating shall use reasonable caution in thereafter passing such animal.

Any accident involving a horse and a vehicle would be tragic, to say the least. Horses, being prey animals, are easily spooked by the unfamiliar. They are "the all-terrain animals with a mind of their own," and one can never guess what might spook them on any given day. A plastic bag on a twig can cause panic; those party balloons at the end of a driveway might EAT them! And just as the horse is doing its darndest to avoid being devoured, along comes a car to add to the confusion of "which way do I run to escape?"

So, please be kind, should you come across us sharing the road. Slow down. Stop, if asked to or if the horse seems nervous. Pass slowly after we're well out of your way, then gradually return to the speed limit. Please don't honk! Smile and wave instead. It usually only takes a few seconds for us to move out of your way.

— Elisabeth King

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MONTEREY
A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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Personal Notes

Happy Birthday to **Nancy Kalodner** on July 1, **Jason Monk** on July 2, **Walter Parks** on July 7, **Jerry Raab** on July 14, **Jessica Thorn** on July 15, **Leonard Weber** on July 18, **Joseph Kopetchny** on July 21, **Richard Sheridan** on July 23, **Thomas Lipsky** on July 24, **Michael Bingham** on July 26, **Charles McTavish** and **Darlene Monk** on July 28.

Happy Anniversary wishes to **Tim and Grace Burke** on July 1, **Maury and Carolyn Mandel** on July 19, and **Michael and Nancy Monk Bingham** on July 25.

Congratulations to **Mitchell and Kristen Freundlich** on the birth of their daughter **Taylor Mai** on May 8. Her big sister **Taliahin** is thrilled, as are grandparents **Mike and Mickey Freundlich** and great-grandmother **Gisela Freundlich**.

Hats or more precisely mortar boards off to our 2001 graduates. Graduating from Mount Everett were **Hannah Bracken, Todd Bynack, Kim Gero, Gordon Hamm, Lincoln Lipsky, Dave Reid, Andrew Shaw, Christina Temenos,** and **Kate Vallianos**. Graduating from Monument Mountain were **Maggie Clawson, Lauren Goldfinger, James Hall,** and **Deirdre Higgins**. Congratulations and best wishes in your future endeavors.

And special congratulations go to **Kate Vallianos,** the salutatorian of this year's graduating class at Mount Everett. Kate's salutatory address was on the theme "Enjoy Whatever Path You Follow."

— Deborah Mielke

Contributors

We are most grateful to the following people for their recent contributions in response to our annual fund-raising appeal. The support of our readers is what keeps us going.

Ruth Lewarch
William Everett
Mickey Beller
Suzanne O'Connell &
Thomas Christopher
Matthew & Barbara Breuer
Charles & Marilyn Swartz
Bonsai Cox
Peter & Susan Leprevost
Robert & Roberta Silman
Rudy Gero
Wayne & Donna Burkhart
Leslie & Curtis Paine
Laura & Tom Mensi
Cathy Roth & Vicki Reed
Patricia Ryan
Rose-Caro Long
Donald & Carol Welsch
Douglas Mackay & Winfield Ogden
Susan Kuder & Channing Mendelsohn
Karl & Shirley Quisenberry
Colta,Gary & Lucy Ives
Nanette Hucknall
Mildred Galen
Jacqueline Smith
Barbara & Daniel Parker
Sam & Evelyn Semaya
Sel & Sue Whitaker
Barbara Henry
Ellen Grenadier
Alice Somers
Mickey & Mike Freundlich
Bonnie Campeglio
John & Lynn Seirup
Jim & Kathy Bracken
Henry & Val Proudman
Susan Landis
John & Lynne Gardner
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David & Donna Brown
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Calendar

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Wednesday, July 4: Town Hall closed for Independence Day.

Thursday, July 5: Full Moon.

Saturday, July 7:

Benefit Concert for Crofut Children's Arts Fund, Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. off Rt. 57, 8 p.m. Eclectic music by Triple Play. Tickets $25; call (413) 258-4904 for reservations. See p. 14.

Country Garden Tour, Sandisfield, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Educational demonstrations by three local nurseries and tour of four of the most beautiful private gardens in Sandisfield. Tickets $15 at Sandisfield Arts Center on day of the event. Information (413) 258-4904.

Saturday, July 14:

"I Love Monterey Day," a full day of festivities. See p. 4 for schedule.

Lecture, "Tertiary Prevention of Mental Disorders," by Dr. Martin Gittelman, 2 p.m., Gould Farm. Public is invited, free of charge. See p. 8.

Tuesday, July 17: Free blood pressure clinic, 9–10:30 a.m., Meetinghouse basement, by Visiting Nurses Assoc. **(Please note change in location.)**

Saturday, July 21: Storytelling for children, Monterey Library, 10 a.m. Storytellers Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell will perform "Imagine That: Stories and Songs." Funded by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 5.

Friday, July 27: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement.

Saturday, July 28:

Fire Department presents the 23rd Annual Steak Roast, 5 p.m.–7 p.m. at the Firehouse. Tickets $18.00, available from Monterey Firemen and at Monterey General Store.

Storytelling for children, Monterey Library, 10 a.m. Kathy Bracken will tell Kipling story "Elephant's Children."

Annual meeting of Monterey Land Trust, Lew & Joyce Scheffey's garden, 11:30 a.m. See p. 7

Berkshire Rowing and Sculling Society tour of Lake Garfield. Rental sculls available. Preregistration required, (413) 528-6091 (Lanny Lanou) or (413) 496-9160 (Lew Cuyler).

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Cindy Green. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

Saturday, August 4:

Storytelling for children by Anson Olds, Monterey Library, 10 a.m.

Second Homeowners Meeting, Monterey Firehouse, 10 a.m.

Swimming Lessons Offered at Town Beach

Simming lessons will held at the Town Beach during the weeks of July 23–27 and July 30–August 3. Registration forms are available at the Monterey General Store, the Town Offices, and the Beach. The lessons are sponsored by the Park Commission.

The Observer

May 26—June 25, 2001

High temp. (6/15)	93°
Low temp. (6/1)	35°
Avg. high temp.	74.9°
Avg. low temp.	52°
Avg. temp.	63.5°
Total rainfall	8.02"

Precipitation occurred on 15 days

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..... George Emmons
Personal Notes ..... Deborah Mielke
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month: MaryKate Jordan, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 19.

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